

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending and claims 1, 3, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 24 have been amended. Applicant thanks examiner for pointing out the inconsistencies in the claims. Claim 3 has been amended to correctly depend from claim 1. Claims 6, 8 and 18 which recited the limitation of "gaming terminals" have been amended to recite "gaming computers". Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

However, as for the use of "router" in claims 6, 9 10 and 18, applicant has so defined router as a common connection point for devices in a network on page 12, lines 13-16, Fig. 2 (part 40) and other places and believes that this is adequate explanation. Please withdraw this rejection, too.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as Anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,770,533 to Franchi.

The examining attorney has rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by the '533 Patent to Franchi. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 24 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, each independent claim now recites that the dealer, not the players, operate the plurality of gaming computers.

To anticipate the claims of the present application, the '533 Patent needs to disclose each and every limitation recited in each rejected claim. The amended claims now recite that the dealer, not the player, operates the gaming computers. In other words, dealers are solely responsible for inputting the amount of any lock-box transactions. The '533 Patent does not disclose or even suggest that dealers solely control the system disclosed therein.

The '533 Patent discloses a computer network for allowing players to record every wagering game transaction. Moreover, the '533 Patent seeks to eliminate the effectiveness of cheating. The present invention is an additional level of security for the casino. In effect, the present invention only records the monies, IOUs, lines of credit, etc.,

Application No. 09/385,520

that find their way into the gaming table lock-box. Applicant concedes that the present invention is not designed to record each player transaction as set forth in the Franchi reference. On the other hand, the present invention is designed to allow the operator (e.g. a dealer) to input each transaction at the lock-box level, not individual wagers. In other words, players typically approach a gaming table and cash-in for a specific amount of money (e.g. \$100.00). The dealer then exchanges the cash for chips and drops the cash into the lock-box. It is at this lock-box level that the present invention is first encountered. Under the present invention, the dealer then correctly inputs the amount of the received cash into the gaming computer. In this manner, the summation of the inputs can be compared to a later manual count to verify the lock-box holdings. At no point is a player involved in the process other than as an onlooker.

The present invention is a simple design providing a valuable service to the casinos and the like. Moreover, there is no need to educate each and every player as required when practicing the '533 Patent. In fact, only dealers have to be trained in the system's operation. As the '533 Patent does not disclose that dealers solely operate the system disclosed therein, it cannot anticipate the claims of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

QUIRK & TRATOS

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RLP/bje
Enclosures: Claims Appendix
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademark, Washington D.C. 20231 on July 17, 2002.

Barbara J. Enlow
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Claims Appendix

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1-24 are pending and claims 1, 3, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 24 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A casino gaming table accounting system comprising, in combination:

a central computer; and

a plurality of gaming terminals coupled to the central computer wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals is located in [the] proximity [of] to a gaming table, whereby the gaming terminals are operable by a dealer not by a player.

3. (Amended) The system of claim [3] 2 wherein each of the gaming terminals transmits the entered transaction data to the central computer.

6. (Amended) A casino gaming table accounting system comprising, in combination:

a central router; and

a plurality of gaming computers coupled to the central router wherein each of the plurality of gaming [terminals] computers is located in [the] proximity of a plurality of gaming [table] tables, whereby the gaming computers are operable by a dealer not by a player .

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Application No. 09/385,520

12. (Amended) A casino gaming computer located in [the] proximity of a gaming table where it is operable by a dealer and not by a player, [and] comprising, in combination:

a data entry device for [entering] the dealer to enter transaction data for transactions that occur at the gaming table;

a display for displaying the entered transaction data;

a processor for executing a software program wherein the processor reads and stores the entered transaction data;

a memory array for storing the entered transaction data; and

at least one peripheral device for outputting the entered transaction data.

13. (Amended) A method for casino gaming table accounting comprising the steps of:

providing a central computer; and

providing a plurality of gaming terminals coupled to the central computer wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals is located in [the] proximity of a gaming table, where they are operable by a dealer not by a player.

18. (Amended) A method for casino gaming table accounting comprising the steps of:

providing a central router; and

providing a plurality of gaming computers coupled to the central router wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals is located in [the] proximity of a gaming table, whereby the gaming terminals are operable by a dealer not by a player.

24. (Amended) A method for casino gaming accounting comprising the steps of providing at least one gaming computer located in [the] proximity of a gaming table wherein each of the at least one gaming computers comprises the steps of:

Application No. 09/385,520

providing a data entry device for [entering] the dealer to enter transaction data for transactions that occur at the gaming table;

providing a display for displaying the entered transaction data;

providing a processor for executing a software program wherein the processor reads and stores the entered transaction data;

providing a memory array for storing the entered transaction data; and

providing at least one peripheral device for outputting the entered transaction data.

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